

## Colleges to have united admissions, program standards and certification

Ontario's college system may soon start to live up to its name.

In a few years it could have united admissions processing as well as common program standards for all of its 23 colleges.

Since they were founded almost 25 years ago, colleges have been relatively independent - deciding what programs they offer, and what the content of those programs should be, as well as handling their own applicants in their own way.

Now the provincial government is taking the recommendations of college staff and the Vision 2000 report and spending money to unite colleges in several key areas.

The province announced in its April budget that it will spend \$3 million in the next year to start work on setting up province-wide standards for college programs.

It will establish a College Standards and Accreditation Council (CSAC) that will have the authority to review programs and establish Ontario-wide standards for them.

Common standards will allow students to transfer more easily between colleges and reduce confusion among both potential students and employers of graduates, the government said in its budget statement.

A sub-committee of the Council of Regents is now studying how to go about establishing province-wide standards.

Hugh Armstrong, who has been seconded from Centennial College to work on that committee, says that "learning outcomes" may be the basis of the standards rather than courses, classroom hours or facilities. Colleges can then follow their unique paths to achieving those outcomes, he says.

The standards themselves will be  
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Photo: Mary Ann Horgan

**WINNING SMILE** - George Brown Hotel Management student Steven Liu flashes a smile as he carefully prepares his entry for the college-sponsored Taste of Canada student culinary contest in April. His work paid off when he won the top prize for *hors d'oeuvres*. Liu was one of 150 college students from across Canada to participate in the annual competition at the School of Hospitality. Team George Brown was the overall winner, and team members won several individual gold medals.

## Teacher wins Juno for Mozart record

Doug Cowling spent a lot of time last year with the Queen of the Night and Prince Tamino. This year, he's got something going with Vivaldi, and Juno is a permanent house guest.

The St. James English teacher may have an active social life, but these exotic people are from his out-of-classroom career as a writer.

The Queen and Prince are characters in Mozart's opera *The Magic Flute*, which Cowling wrote into the children's musical record *Mozart's Magic Fantasy*.

Since that recording came on the market a year ago it has sold more than 60,000 copies in Canada. It also won Cowling and producer Sue Hammond a 1991 Juno award for best

children's recording.

Now Cowling is spending some of his off hours writing a script for a musical about Italian composer Vivaldi. Called *Vivaldi's Ring of Mystery*, it will be produced by Sue Hammond at Mantra Studios next door to St. James Campus on Adelaide Street.

Cowling says he had to look at classical opera from a child's perspective in writing *Magic Fantasy* to bring out Mozart's drama, humour and underlying theme of love. The result is even easy on adult ears judging from the response it has received, he says.

"It's the kind of tape that families love when they're listening together trapped in a car."

# Program standards

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developed with extensive consultation between colleges to "generate commitment," he says.

"It makes no sense to order from some office in Queen's Park...and expect people at 23 colleges to follow those orders."

Developing standards will take many years, he says.

The government is also moving ahead with a project that will make it easier for people who were educated outside Ontario, or those with no formal training but job experience, to get academic credits towards college diplomas. The Prior Learning Assessment Network will provide a way of evaluating people's education and experience so they will not waste time in college.

"We want to build on the strengths of the educational system so that factory worker or homemaker, high school dropout or business executive, can achieve recognition for his or her practical experience," Ontario Treasurer Floyd Laughren told the legislature.

The province will also spend money this year to study the feasibility of setting up an "institute without walls" that could sponsor advanced training and co-operation between Ontario's colleges and universities. The institute could make it easier for college students to continue their studies to earn university degrees.

In a separate development, the Ministry of Colleges and Universities is spending more than \$1 million to develop a central applications system for Ontario colleges.

The exact nature of the system has yet to be decided. It could mimic the university applications centre in Guelph and handle initial processing of all applications, or it could be a computer network between colleges, says George Brown Registrar Garry Watson. "The system can be a huge labour-saving device for the colleges," he says.

## Publications win awards

A new brochure about George Brown's Ceramics program and a series of posters for the School of Dance won awards of merit at the sixth annual Trillium Awards presented by the College Advisory Committee on Public Affairs in Hamilton in May.



Photo: Neil McElwain

**SIGN OF THE TIMES** - George Brown President John Rankin (left) and York Board of Education Director Norm Ahmed share a joke after signing an articulation agreement on May 1. The agreement sets the stage for Board and College staff to explore closer ties, including those in which Board students earn credits towards George Brown certificates and diplomas. Dozens of students from the Board have already spent time at the college exploring their educational options.

## Events

**May 30** - Seventh annual Metro colleges support staff conference: *Today, tomorrow and beyond: Get involved with your environment*, Sheridan College, Oakville. Featuring workshops speakers and displays. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**May 31 and June 7** - Staff development seminar: *DBase III Plus Training*. Casa Loma Campus, 146 Kendal Ave., room E-132, 9 a.m. - noon. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**June 4** - Staff development seminar: *A College Financial Perspective*. St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., room 663, 9 a.m. - noon. Led by College Controller Kathie Cestnick. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

- Metro area colleges' annual faculty conference. Theme: *Track to the Future: Charting an Educational Course*. Centennial College, Progress Campus. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**June 5** - Official opening of the D. E. Light Child Care Centre at Nightingale Campus, 3:30 - 5:30 p.m.

**June 6** - Board of Governors' Staff Awards of Excellence presentation ceremony and reception, Plumer's Dining Room, 300 Adelaide St. E., 4 to 6:30 p.m.

- Support staff workshop: *Race and Ethnic Relations*, also offered on June 13. For more information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**June 10** - Screen Printing Department open house featuring student work, 200 King St. E., 8th floor. All day.

**June 11** - Board of Governors meeting, 500 MacPherson, 5 p.m. All welcome. For information call Cynthia McDonagh at 944-4474.

- Staff development seminar: *Macintosh Training for Microsoft Word*. Casa Loma Campus, 146 Kendal, room E-119, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

**June 12** - Staff development seminar: *What is This Thing Called Learning Disabilities?* St. James Campus, 200 King St. E., room 663, noon - 1 p.m. For information call Staff Training and Development at 944-4661.

# College to train intervenors for deaf/blind people

A new George Brown program will help to expand the boundaries of communication for people who are both deaf and blind.

People with this dual disability rely on intervenors to be their eyes and ears. A shortage of trained intervenors, however, means most deaf-blind people get only a limited amount of time with an intervenor — sometimes as few as five hours a week.

For the first time in Canada, George Brown will introduce an Intervenor diploma program in September to train people to become intervenors for the deaf-blind community. Students in the two-year program will learn how to serve as vital links between deaf-blind people and their environments.

"Deaf-blind people require much more than interpreter services provided for deaf people," said Molly Saunders, chair of the program's advisory committee and the co-ordinator of deaf-blind services at the Canadian National Institute for the Blind.

"An intervenor for deaf-blind individuals must communicate visual information as well, in whatever communication method the deaf-blind person is most comfortable; and there is a great need for people who can do that."

Students in the program will learn a number of communication methods, including tactile sign language, two-hand manual alphabet, one-hand finger spelling, large-print notes, braille, and the use of various technical devices.

Program co-ordinator Elaine Smith says there are an estimated 2,500 deaf-blind people in Canada — about 600 living in Ontario — but she adds that many people believe those estimates to be low.

While many deaf-blind adults are capable of living and working independently in the community, they require the assistance of intervenors to help them with activities such as medical appointments and shopping. Each deaf-blind person could make use of an intervenor for anywhere from two to 16 hours every day, if trained individuals were available.



**PAST INSPIRES STUDENT DESIGNERS** - George Brown Fashion Design students were inspired by the past — from the 1950s and '60s to ancient Egypt — for the annual fashion show at Kensington in early May. Helen Liang created a tiered evening gown (modeled by Marion Pesant) in black and white, while Ken Langlois modeled his own suede shorts and Egyptian-print jacket.

## Part-time staff gain right to form unions; colleges to replace Regents in bargaining

The provincial government will allow part-time staff at colleges to form unions, and will transfer responsibility for collective bargaining to an employers' association of colleges from the Council of Regents.

The long-anticipated changes to the Colleges Collective Bargaining Act were announced by Colleges and Universities Minister Richard Allen on May 16.

Part-time support staff and faculty will be allowed to form their own separate bargaining units, while sessional academic staff (who work 12 out of 24 months) as well as part-time counsellors and librarians will join the existing full-time academic local of the Ontario Public Service Employees Union.

The change will affect more than 500 part-time staff members at George

Brown and about 12,500 people at colleges across the province.

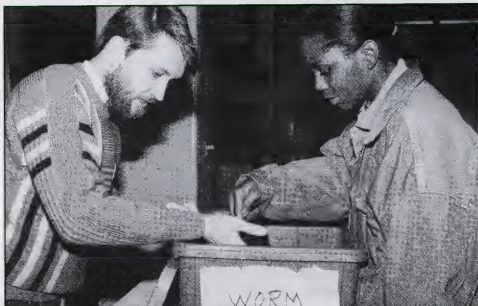
In a statement to the legislature Allen said the exclusion of part-time staff from unions was "out of step" with the Ontario public service.

The employers' association, made up of all 23 Ontario colleges, will be a crown agency responsible for collective bargaining, as well as recommending salaries and working conditions for non-union staff.

Currently, collective bargaining is carried on by the Council of Regents, a provincially appointed group of community representatives.

The employers' association and extension of bargaining rights will be introduced after current contract negotiations are concluded, Allen said. Both changes were recommended by Dr. Jeffrey Gandz in his 1988 report.

# Names in the News



**THE WORM'S TURN** - Furniture Production and Design student Ria Jones (right) looks at a handful of soil from a worm composter with Ron Hauwert of the Recycling Council of Ontario at an Earth Day display at Kensington Campus on April 24. The composter, which uses hundreds of worms to turn kitchen waste into nutrient-rich soil, can be used by apartment dwellers to reduce the amount of garbage they produce.

Cathy Smith, chairperson of the Educational Access Services Department, has just published her third book. The 80-page book is entitled *For You: Adults with Learning Disabilities*. "It helps explain learning disabilities so that adults know whether they have them or not," says Smith. "And then it helps them to understand and to cope with them." The book is published by the Learning Disabilities Association of Canada at 323 Chapel Street, Ottawa, Ontario K1N 7Z2. Phone (613) 238-5721.

The new representative for organized labour on the Board of Governors is **Cosmo Mannella**, Director of Apprenticeship, Training and Rehabilitation at the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America. He replaces **Herman Stewart**, who remains on the board as a community representative.

Access Division Dean **Terry Dance** is slated as a keynote speaker at the conference *Access with Success: Developmental Studies* at Humber College on May 24. The panelists will discuss successful developmental programs, including issues of organization, structure, curriculum, and support services in the colleges. Other George Brown contributors include **Fran Dungey**, who was on the conference planning committee, and English and

Liberal Studies teachers **Kay Oxford** and **Pamela Idahosa**, who will lead a workshop on "Remediation: The Role of the Development Centre."

The search is on to find a new academic vice-president for George Brown. The position was advertised recently in the *Globe and Mail* as one first step in a national search for candidates. **Bob Struthers**, who has been acting academic vice-president since June, 1990 and Dean of Continuing Education and Marketing since 1983, has assumed a new mandate as Vice-President of Access and External Relations. In addition to Continuing Education, Marketing, and Business and Industry Training, he will be responsible for Access and Program Development, Ventures (which now includes the International Centre), and

## City College News

is a publication of the Continuing Education and Marketing Division of George Brown College at 258 Adelaide St. E., Toronto, Ontario M5A 1N1. (416) 867-2060. Editors: Jill Holroyd and Neil McGillivray. Writers: Neil McGillivray and Mary Ann Horgan.

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federal/provincial liaison. Human Resources Director **Sally Layton** has become Executive Director of Human Resources reporting directly to President **John Rankin**. Layton, Struthers, Administration Vice-President **Jim Turner**, Rankin and eventually the academic vice-president, form a new college management committee.

Former Scarborough West MPP **Richard Johnston** has been appointed chairperson of the Council of Regents for Ontario colleges by Premier **Bob Rae**. He replaces **Charles Pascal**, who is now a deputy minister of the Premier's Council on Health, Well-Being and Social Justice. Johnston represented his riding from 1979 until his resignation last year. He has since worked on a study of the Toronto Island community for the Ministry of Housing.

The Human Resources Department reports the following staff changes:

New administrative staff include **Shirley Temple**, who joins the Registrar's Office at St. James.

New faculty include: **Allan Budzin** and **Judy Hernandez** in Academic Upgrading at 160 Kendal, and **Tom Stephenson** in Architectural Engineering at 160 Kendal.

New support staff include: **Clara Chow** in the School of Business at St. James; **Tadeusz Galardos** in Caretaking at 160 Kendal; **James Hasson** in the Ontario Basic Skills Literacy Project at 160 Kendal; and **Kamala Paramjothy** in the Community Business Centre at Kensington.

Support staff transfers include: **Robert Rocca**, who moves from Health Sciences to Campus Management at 160 Kendal.

Faculty transfers include: **Judy Linton**, who moves from the Test Centre at 1 Dartnell to the Career Development Centre at St. James; and **John Dumitrascu**, **Richard Gruchalla**, **Nina Triger**, **Damien Wiechula** and **Emil Yanchula**, who all move from Math and Science to Architectural Engineering at 160 Kendal.

Leaving the college are: **Lynn Jackson** and **Philip Smith**. Hairdressing teacher **Andre Lijoi** died recently after a long illness.